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EPISODES IN OUR EARLY HISTORY.

A LECTURE

DELIVERED BY

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THE HISTORY OF
ENGLAND
FROM THE
INVASION OF JULIUS CAESAR
TO THE PRESENT TIME
BY
H. P. COLEMAN

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

As nearly all the information contained in this Lecture about the early History of Newfoundland has been gathered from sources outside the existing histories of the Colony, I consider it is due to my readers, in the first place, to cite my authorities.

For the Icelandic discovery of America my information has been principally derived from Dr. Rinko's "Danish Greenland," (edition of 1877); the admirable paper on pre-Columbian discovery, in Chambers' "Papers for the People," Vol. III; Carlyle's "Early Kings of Norway;" Montgomery Martin's "British Colonial Library," article Newfoundland; Principal Dawson of Montreal, and some information kindly obtained for me by Mr. Rabbits, the Member for Brigus.

On the discovery of Newfoundland by Cabot, and its early history, my principal authorities are the two lives of Sebastian Cabot by Biddle and Nicholls, Brown's admirable History of Cape Breton, and Kirke's Conquest of Canada. For the account of the French dominion in the Colony, I have gathered my facts principally from Garneau's "History of Canada, Parkman's "Frontenac," and "Pioneers of New France," and again from Brown, and a few facts from Reeves. The Placentia episodes I have taken from the Placentia Records, now mouldering away in our Record Room. I may add that I have the usual excuse of the pamphleteer, and the parson who prints his sermons, for rushing into print. "Earnest requests from numerous and respected friends, in whose judgment I place reliance," etc. I have endeavored, to the best of my ability, to set before my fellow-Newfoundlanders the latest lights that I can find upon some doubtful points in their early history, and I trust that its perusal may deepen in some small degree the interest they take in their native land.

EPISODES IN OUR EARLY HISTORY.

I shall endeavor to interest you this evening about some obscure episodes in the early history of this most ancient and loyal Colony. It may once have been all that a Poet in the beginning of this century described it, as :—

“The land I sing where fish and oil abound,
And savoury flakes the public streets surround,
Where for six months the driving snows assail,
And ice keeps off the packet and the mail ;
In short, a place where nothing thrives
Except potatoes, publicans and wives ;
Of these the latter often may be seen,
The beauteous mother of at least sixteen ;
In brief, a land where pigs eat fish,
Judge, oh ye gods ! how savoury is the dish.”

Very little of this is true about us now. The flakes are gone, ice does not keep off the good ship *Newfoundland*, and potatoes unfortunately “don’t thrive;” but true, or not true, the land is dear to us, linked as it is with the cherished associations of our lives.

Over the dim and early years of American History there hangs an obscurity and a darkness which no keen searching antiquarian eye has yet been able to penetrate. For Europe and for Asia there are written memorials which carry back the history of these continents for several thousands of years before the Christian era; but up to this time there is no written document which carries the authenticated history of America farther back than the beginning of the tenth century; and it is only within the latter part of this century that this, the oldest American written history contained in the Icelandic Sagas, has been given to the world. In nearly every history of Newfoundland, and in all old general histories, you will find the pre-Columbian discovery of America by the Icelanders treated as a myth: but it is now ascertained to be a great

historical fact, as sure and certain a fact as that William the Conqueror, the descendant of another Norseman, Rolf the Ganger, or Walker, conquered England in 1066.

The written record of the Icelandic discovery of America, is contained in a "Saga," (literally "says") known now to Antiquaries as the *Flatö Saga*, from the Island in Iceland, where the manuscripts were found in 1650. The authenticity of this Saga as an historical document of the 12th century is undoubted. It has been subdivided into the *Eric Raude* or *Eric Red Saga*, which refers to the colonization of Greenland by *Eric*; the discoveries of his descendants; and the *Karlsefné Saga*, which refers to the same facts; but the principal character is *Thorfinn Karlsefné*. Time will not permit me to give you more than the very briefest sketch of the histories contained in these two Sagas: they treat mainly of the same events, differ in many minor points, but agree in all the main facts. The first point that I will refer to is the colonization of Greenland, mentioned in the Saga by Eric Raude, which took place in 986. Most minute particulars are given about the different localities and especially about Eric's own house. Dr. Rinke tell us that this house can be identified from remains still existing. "In a country," he says, "where no tree can grow; the faintest traces of former buildings can be made out." Kakortok Church he thus describes: The Church contains three separate entrances; the principal one is covered with a very large regular flat stone, measuring about twelve feet in length. In the opposite or Eastern wall is a window most skilfully arched, but apparently likewise constructed from rough stones." About one hundred places have been found scattered along the coast of Greenland in which stone buildings or traces of them have been found, "and by a careful comparison," says Rinke, "of these localities with the ancient narrative, it has been possible to lay down with the utmost degree of probability the old geographical names of the Sagas in our present maps.

Now both the Sagas which describes the colonization of Greenland go on to tell of the adventures of various Icelanders, who, sailing from Greenland at the end of the 10th and beginning of the 11th century, discovered Great and Little Helluland, Markland, and Vinland. Great Helluland, which is undoubtedly Labrador, is described as a stony or rocky country with many small hills. Next country they called Markland, a low flat country covered with wood;

and lastly they discovered Vinland or Vineland, from the wild vines found there, and also from the self sown wheat or maize. Newfoundland, it has been decided, was little Helluland, Markland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Lower Canada, whilst from the minute description given in the Saga of the length of the shortest day, the remarkable description of land corresponding to Cape Cod and Chatham Beach Professor Rafn has been enabled to lay down the site of Vinland as the Northern part of the beautiful Rhode Island, called the Eden of America. There wild grapes still fling their graceful tendrils from tree to tree, and maize if not wheat grows there sown by Nature's hand alone. In corroboration also of Professor Rafn's theory there is an old stone building near Newport, Rhode Island, which all the distinguished Northern Antiquaries pronounce to be a baptismal chapel in the early style of the middle ages; and the remains of a skeleton in an armour of bronze have also been found near the same locality. Adam of Bremen, writing in the 11th century, mentions the discovery of Vinland and the grapes.

The last authentic account that we get of these Greenland Colonists is from a document found in the Archives of the Vatican, a brief of Pope Nicholas V dated 1448, addressed to two Bishops in Iceland, urging them to take measures for the support of the remnants of the Church in Greenland, that had escaped the dreadful calamity which had befallen them thirty years previously, when a fleet of heathen barbarians coming from the neighbouring countries had laid waste the whole Colony, leaving only a few scattered inhabitants in nine parishes. The Iceland Bishops appear to have disregarded this command, for there is no further trace of any intercourse between Iceland and her Greenland Colonists. It is generally believed that the great pestilence which appeared in Europe in 1394, known as the Black Death, which extinguished entire populations, must have reached Greenland also, and thus—pestilence, war, and internal dissensions, of which the Sagas mention numerous instances, and the increasing severity of the climate, swept them away off the face of the earth. With the extinction of the Greenland Colony, the small outlying settlements in America became extinct also. No wonder that the disappearance of flourishing Colonies, which had existed for 400 years, was an event so surprising that, in spite of tradition and of written records, the world in general for four centuries was disinclined to believe that

they had ever existed. Now, supposing that these Icelanders settled anywhere in this Island, where would they most probably have fixed their abode? Thanks to the minute details of the Sagas we can form a very correct opinion on this point. Rinke tells us that the judgment they showed in choosing the most eligible spots in Greenland is perfectly marvellous; they invariably selected places up the fiords or inland waters, where the climate was milder than on the sea coast; their household goods were of the rudest description; they were small fishermen farmers like our own people, only instead of having bags of Harvey's and Murray's bread, they carried corn in their ships, which they ground in a rude way. I suppose most of you know Conception Bay; you know those two charming spots near Port-de-Grave known as Northern and Southern Rivers. Well, here about seven miles from the sea shore in the beginning of this century, a party of settlers found the appearance of stone walls, and on removing the earth found the remains of ancient buildings with oak beams and mill stones sunk in oaken beds. Inclosures resembling gardens were also traced out, and plants of various kinds not indigenous to the Island were growing around. Amongst the ruins were found different European coins, some of Dutch gold, considered to be old Flemish coins; others of copper without inscriptions. Besides this account, which is taken from Martin, I have been informed that a gold ring of massive workmanship was also found. This matter was discussed before the Royal Geographical Society, by then Captain Hercules Robinson, a brother of Sir Bryan Robinson. His view was that the ruins were not older than Lord Baltimore's settlement. Cormack takes the same view. Montgomery Martin who saw the paper read before the Society, differs altogether from Captain Robinson. The Captain admits that some of the coins were of virgin gold. The Flemish coins and the character of the buildings, combined with the fact that there is no evidence whatever to show any English settlement there, points to the probable conclusion that the ruins are all Icelandic. Mill stones of the same character have also been found at Hearts Cove, near Twillingate, so Mr. E. Duder tells me. But apart from the testimony of Carlyle, who speaks of these Sagas as "among the great history books of the world," we have only to glance at the map to see that in their frequent voyages from Iceland to their Colonies, situate near the most Southern

of the present Danish settlements in Greenland, some of those old Norsemen with their small unweatherly craft must sooner or later have been driven by a North-west gale upon the coast of Labrador.

At this stage of my lecture I must be allowed to make a quotation from one of those interesting but somewhat costly volumes, annually published by my friend Mr. Stuart, known as the Journals of the House of Assembly. At page 565, 1863 vol., I find these immortal words from Mr. Samuel Driscoll :

"TOADS COVE, March 2nd, 1863.

"SIR,

"I have been engaged in the Codfishery fifty-six years, in many forms : after all the time I may be as blind as the novice. I give my synopsis of the fishery system according to conscience, erudition and intellect."

Now, this is just my case : I have been hard at work for some time studying their matter. I, too, may be as blind as the novice, but "according to conscience, erudition and intellect," I have endeavoured to set before you the latest lights upon this deeply interesting subject, and I intend to go bye and by to Brigus to look further into it.

We now come down to what may be called the modern discovery of America, and the general idea is that Sebastian Cabot, on 27th June, 1497, at 5 o'clock in the morning, in a Bristol ship called the *Matthee*, discovered Cape Bonavista, and that he named the land *Baccalaos*, because the natives called the shoals of great fish round the country by that name. Now, let us examine for a moment in detail these facts, and first as regards the names *Bacalao* or *Bacalao*, or *Baccalieu*. In an old map drawn by Cabot this country is made an archipelago of Islands, and Labrador is classed as the Terra *Baccalaos*. *Prima Vista* is Nova Scotia, *Cape Race* is given, and *Baccalieu* Island. This map bears date 1554. Now, we know from authentic history, that in 1504 Spanish ships from the Basque Provinces fished on the shores both of Newfoundland and Cape Breton, and the veriest little street boy that ever stole fish and sold it for rum can tell us that *Bacalao* is the Spanish for dried fish—a common and vulgar Spanish word—and it is perfectly clear that the Spanish gave this name to the country and that the account of the voyage must have been written many years after the event. Now, the next question is not at all clear—what part of North America was seen on this expedi-

tion of 1497? The latest biographer of Cabot says it was Cape North; but whether it was Cape North or a part of Nova Scotia, there can be no doubt whatever that they saw some part of the main land of North America, and also Newfoundland. As regards the third question, whether the honour of the discovery is due to John Cabot or Sebastian, I may say that on this subject there has been a great deal of learned disquisition, and that two very learned, and one uncommonly dull book, have been written on it; one in 1832 by Biddle, and another by Nicholls, Librarian of Bristol, in 1869. I believe the credit of the discovery and the honour is due to old John Cabotto; and these are my reasons: 1st, John Cabot's name appears in the original Patent of 1496. Now it is a very remarkable fact in this discussion, not only that Columbus visited Iceland in 1477, when the Icelandic discoveries in America must have been well known there; but also that John Cabot's first business with Henry VII was arranging some differences between England and Denmark about the large fishery which England then carried on in Iceland. I think we can have very little doubt that John Cabot was in Iceland also, and if so, both those illustrious Italians heard the stories about Vinland. We have most minute descriptions of the Icelanders' habits in many respects: they were very like ourselves, crowding down like we do on the Galway wharf to see passengers arrive; generally inviting them to partake of the flowing bowl, and always asking and giving the news. There are three pieces of evidence to prove that John Cabot not only went on this first expedition, but also planned it. 1st, there is a second charter of 1498 given to him John Cabot alone; the words are as clear as daylight:

"To all Men to whom thiss presenteis shall come gretyng: Know ye that We of our Grace especiale and dyvers causes us moving, We have given and graunten, and by these presents geve and graunte, to our well beloved John Kabotto, the Venecian, sufficiente auctorite and power that he by him, his Deputie or Deputies, sufficient may take at his pleasure VI Englishe shipes in any Porte or Pertes, or other places within this, our Realme of England or Obeisance, so that, and if the said shippes be of the burthen of CC tonnes, or under, with their apparail requisite and necessarie for the safe conduct of the said shippes, and them convey and leade to the *Londe and Isles of late founde by the said John.*"

Now, here is another—a letter from the Venetian envoy

in England to his Government, dated Aug. 24, 1497, discovered by Mr. Rawdon Brown in the Venetian Archives:—

“Also, some months ago his Majesty Henry VII. sent out a Venetian, who is a very good mariner, and has good skill in discovering new Islands, and has found two very large and fertile new Islands.”

And lastly—Here is a piece of evidence which all the pages of gossip about Sebastian won't get over. In p. 262 of R. Brown's volume is a letter from Antonio Pasqualigo to his brother, dated 23rd Aug., 1497:—

“The Venetian, our countryman, who went in a ship from Bristol in search of new Islands, is returned, and says:—700 leagues hence he discovered land, the territory of the Grand Cham. He coasted for 300 leagues and landed; saw no human beings, but has brought hither to the King certain snares which had been set to catch game, and the needle for making nets, &c. His name is Juan Cabot, and he is styled the Great Admiral; vast honor is paid to him, and he dresses in silk; and the English people run after him like mad people.” (I have left out of this argument the fact that Sebastian Cabot, at the time of the first voyage, must have been a very young man; and I make no reference to a portrait and a map, which are evidences in favor of John.) I do not wish in this discussion in any way to disparage Sebastian Cabot. He was a very great navigator. He discovered Hudson's Bay, la Plata, the variation of the Compass; lived to a great age, and attained to great honor both in England and Spain. I have been told that I ought to give the evidence in favor of Sebastian also. I may say that Stow the Antiquarian, that Ramusio, Sir H. Gilbert Wilkes, and Eden; all mention Sebastian as the discoverer. But all this is hearsay evidence, and most of it written long after the occurrence: they believed Sebastian was an Englishman, and they naturally wished a countryman to have the credit, but all these statements will not weigh for a moment against the evidence of the second charter, and the two Venetian letters. Mr. Greene in his short History of the English people says:—John Cabot was the discoverer, and he is a pretty good authority. I believe the Cabots purposely kept the facts very close about their first voyage, and that very probably they went by way of Iceland, as Sebastian undoubtedly sailed that way on the second voyage, 1498.

The history of Newfoundland after John Cabot's discovery may be conveniently divided into four periods.

The first or obscure period from the discovery to about 1590 or 1600, when there was very little, if any, settlement and very little known about the Colony.

The second period from about 1600 to 1728, when there was settlement but no Government except the fishing Admirals. This may be called the fishing Admiral period.

The third period from 1728—the first appointment of a regular Governor (Captain Osborne) Justices and Surrogates to 1791—the Surrogate period.

The Fourth period, commencing with the appointment of a qualified lawyer as Chief Justice in 1791, and extending down to our own time, may be called the modern period.

The Carter's connection with Newfoundland dates from a very early period, for I find in the Privy Purse expenses of Henry VII. this record: "April 1, 1498, a reward of £2 to James Carter for going to the new Isle"; thus proving that James Carter must have been on the original voyage of 1497.

From the discovery of John Cabot to the arrival of Sir Humphrey Gilbert in 1585, the information about Newfoundland is of the most meagre description. The English at first made very little use of the new land. Some writers have conjectured this was on account of the Iceland fishery, for in 1518 there were 360 English traders in one port alone in Iceland—Hafne Fiord. The real reason, however, of this early neglect by the English of our fishing-grounds is clearly explained in a letter recently found in the archives of Simancas, in Spain, dated July 25, 1498, from Pedro de Ayala, the Spanish ambassador, addressed to Ferdinand and Isabella. The letter speaks about Cabot's expedition. Ayala says he told the King the land was in the possession of the King of Spain, and had given him reasons with which he did not seem well pleased. Ferdinand writes back to tell Henry to beware of these men who are sent by the King of France to distract him from more serious business. The letter had the desired effect on the parsimonious King; he wished to keep Catharine's dowry, so he could not fall out with Spain; consequently he sent no more expeditions, and we hear of no more voyages to Newfoundland for thirty years, (up to 1527,) when Henry the VIII. sent out two ships at the instigation of Mr. Thorne, of Bristol. We should have known no particulars whatever of this adventure but for a curious letter written by Captain John Rut, a regular old West Country skipper, to Henry, dated St. John's, 3rd August, 1527: "Pleasing your Honourable Grace to heare of your

servant John Rut with all his Company here, in good health, thanks be to God and your Graceship"; and it winds up—"By your servant, John Rut, to his uttermost of his power." Rut says he found in St. John's "eleven sail of Normans, and one Brittain, and two Portugal barks, all a fishing." We know from authentic history that Basques, Normans, and Bretons fished on the Banks as early as 1504. In Hakluyt's collection of voyages is a letter from Anthony Parkhurst, Merchant of Bristol, dated 1578. He says there were more than 100 sail of Spaniards taking cod in Newfoundland; twenty to thirty whaling; fifty sail of Portuguese; 150 sail of French and Bretons—mostly very small—but of English, only fifty sail. Nevertheless, he says "the English are commonly Lords of the Harbors where they fish, and help themselves to boat-loads of salt and such, in return for protection against rovers and other violent intruders who do often put them from good Harbours."

The next adventure that we hear of, after Rut's, was a very remarkable voyage undertaken by a party of private gentlemen and lawyers in 1536. As might be expected, it was a most disastrous voyage. All the liquor was drunk up very early, for the old Chronicle says: "In this distress of famine the English did somewhat relieue their vital spirits by drinking at the springs the fresh water out of certain wooden cups, out of which they had drunke their 'aqua composita' before." "Aqua composita" is a euphonious name for what is commonly called spirits. Would the smell alone satisfy my brethren of the law now? These lawyers who first went on the Northern Circuit must have been rather a queer set. Being very hard up they somehow seduced the crew of a French ship ashore and then got possession of her and sailed away home. They were so changed with the hunger and misery that, as old Hakluyt says of one of them—Mr. Butts—"Sir William his father, and my Lady his mother, knew him not to be their sonne until they found a secret marke, which was a warte upon one of his knees." The poor Frenchmen who lost their ship made complaint before Henry VIII., who gave them full recompence out of the £1,800,000 his old father had scraped up, and laughed at the queer doings of his subjects.

About 1548 the English appear to have directed more attention to the Newfoundland fisheries, for we find an act of Edward VI., of that year, imposing heavy penalties upon officers of the Admiralty for exacting sums of money, doles,

or shares of fish, for licenses to traffic in Newfoundland. But for this Act we should not have a single bit of information about the Colony for forty years. At this point I must leave the narrative of these very obscure episodes in our early History. The remembrances of the ancient Basque or Spanish fishermen are scattered about the Carlist country in Spain in the form of noble old houses built out of the proceeds of their fishing and whaling in Newfoundland, and in this country, such names as Cabo-Raso, Cape Race, Formosa, Fermeuse, Spaniards Bay, &c., perpetuate their memory. I must therefore leave out all about Raleigh, Gilbert, Lord Baltimore, Kirke, Mr. Guy's settlement in Mosquito, a Welch settlement to the Southward, and pass on to the consideration of the French Dominion in Newfoundland. Before Gilbert's arrival it appears that in 1582 Sir Thomas Hamphire came here with five ships. Elizabeth had given him authority to secure to every master of a fishing crew, the property of that fishing room which he made the object of his choice, so long as he kept it employed for the use of the fishery. Under this wise provision, worthy of the great Sovereign who made it, the English fisheries increased rapidly. Gradually the Spanish and Portuguese declined; doubtless the greater attractions of South America and Brazil drew them away. As theirs declined the French fisheries arose. I shall therefore endeavour to trace out for you, necessarily in a very brief and cursory manner, the gradual extension of the French power in Newfoundland, and the commencement of those aggressions and encroachments on our fisheries which have formed one of the staple items in Governors' speeches ever since we had one; but first let me say a few words about the early settlements. Between 1585 and 1603 the English appear to have gradually consolidated their power in Newfoundland. Settlements began to be formed, and the country was ruled in a rude, rough manner. There was no regular Navy; gallant sea captains like Drake, and Frobisher, were little better than Pirates; "erring Captains," so old Whitbourne calls the rovers and pirates of those days. The first English settlements appear to have extended first from Torbay to Cape Race; Torbay was then called Thorne Bay after a West country family, the Thornes, who though not in the Public House business are still amongst the leaders of society, and split merchants in that interesting locality.) There were settlements also at Bonavista, Trinity, and in Conception Bay; the early

settlement must have been very gradual, as I find that in 1680, just after the barbarous order in Council to remove them, there were 212 Planters between Cape Race and Cape Bonavista; only 99 were married; they had 215 children, 1695 men servants, 23 women servants, 454 head of cattle, 25 horses, 361 boats, 196 stages, and they caught 67,340 qtls fish. The West country Merchants had then 793 boats, 133 stages, 4000 men, 99 ships, carrying 415 guns, and their catch was 133,910 qtls fish, and 1053 hlds train oil. In 18 years, 1698, the Planters had only increased from 212 to 284, but the children must have increased rapidly, for I find they numbered 462; the Planters' servants were, 1894, boats 397, fish caught 101,152 qtls. The Western Merchants at the same time had 4244 men and they shipped 265,189 qtls codfish. They had 252 vessels fishing and carrying fish, of 24,318 tons: fish caught in ships—114,770. But how came they first to settle here? The old records show that, like those who came to David in the cave of Adullam, so many came who were discontented or in debt. Some stayed here for fear of termagant wives in the West country; some because they were crossed in love; some because their penurious masters would not pay 30s. for their passage home. As a rule, the very early settlers were mostly very poor people, whose lives were hard and rough, and whose aspirations were not probably higher than the Twillingate fisherman who told his Merchant: "If I were as rich as Mr. Slade, or as you, Mr. Duder, I'd go and live on little Fogey Island, have butter—lassie dough-boys every day for my dinner, and do notin' at all all the days of my life except, maybe, berryin on times." Their occupation in the winter was pretty much the same as at the present day—cutting wood, building boats, hauling out room stuff, trapping and hunting for game. Their amusement, besides the existing ones of drinking (the liquor of those days was good, cheap, and plentiful; Madeira and Spanish wines were common drinks; the jars of those days, however, like the Newfoundland cows in cold weather, had a great tendency to run dry very early in the Spring) and cards, was dancing, "cruising," as they call visiting to the Northward, and the mummers, a very old English institution, at Christmas. It is a sad thing to reflect that there is a generation growing up about us now who never knew the fool's; who never knew the honor a boy felt in those days when a fool shook hands with him; or how that boy, who had seen Mick Toole's rig,

crowed over other boys. The fools, or mummers, were killed by an Act worthy of the great purpose it effected.

In 1675 I find the first notice of the commencement of our trade with Ireland. A complaint is made to the Government at home that some of the West Country Merchants used to victual their ships in Ireland—doubtless because pork and butter were cheaper; and no doubt they took an odd Irish youngster, as they were afterwards called, for the same good reason. Thus commenced the emigration from Ireland to this Colony which has had such a material influence upon the character of the Colony.

The statistics that I have given of population were taken by Mr. Brown from the English Colonial Records, and can be relied on. I believe the whole resident population of the Colony, at the end of the 17th century, did not exceed 3000; the emigrants were few, and many of our people went to New England, and this partly accounts for the small increase in the population. One curious fact is given in these Records, viz:—that the celebrated Dutch Admiral De Ruyter, in 1665, visited most of our ports, and victualled his fleet from the West Country ships; that in 1673 a Dutch squadron of four ships, of forty guns each, entered Ferryland Harbor, where they plundered, ruined, fired, and destroyed the place. Poor Lady Kirke and her sons were the principal sufferers—her sons were then residing there in the capacity of ordinary Planters. The family consisted of Lady Kirke, George Kirke, her son, with a wife and four children; David, wife and one child, and Philip, unmarried. They had sixty-six men servants, fourteen boats, three stages, and three oil vats.

The second period into which I have divided our Colonial history, the Fishing Admiral period, is a dark, blotted page in our annals. Poor as the Newfoundland Planters were, they were constantly harrassed by pirates in the beginning of the period, and latterly they were ruined and impoverished by wars. The Fishing Admiral was a barbarous, rude expedient created in the Star Chamber by one of England's worst Kings, and in his worst days (1633). The French, however, had precisely the same regulations—their first arrival in Port being appointed "Master of the Harbour," with duties and privileges corresponding to our Fishing Admirals. These ancient officials do not come within the scope of my lecture; they have already been most ably handled by Mr. Reeves. I shall only mention two points

in their favor. First—That on their appointment they stood a feast for all the other Captains in the Harbor; and secondly—They observed Sunday in a pious manner by pummeling most unmercifully any Frenchman or “vile Portingall” who dared to fish on that sacred day. A case was brought before the Magistrates some time ago in which it was shown that West Country fists can hit hard still. A father and three stalwart sons stood up before the Justice, showing severe bruises on all their faces, and it was clearly proved that the Defendant alone, and with his fists, had hammered them singly and collectively; not only so, but in swinging his arms to get clear of his mother, who was trying to hold her amiable son, he had knocked all her teeth down her throat. When called on for his defence his answer was:—“What have I to say, Your Worship? All I says, Your Worship, is, *‘that a worm will turn.’*” No country has produced greater Englishmen than Devon. As sailors, the Devonshire men, to this day, have no superiors; but in the administration of justice as Fishing Admirals, the corruption, the pugnacity, and the ignorance of these old Western adventurers have seldom been excelled. The Admirals had one golden rule—they gave no law until they had tried all their own cases and collected in their own debts. An instance of this eminent judicial practice has occurred within our own time: A fine old West Country man, an Outharbor Justice, showing his records to Sir Francis Brady, the Chief, was horrified to find that His Worship had delivered a number of judgments in favor of his own house. “Not right, my Lord?” said the Magistrate. “Well, I must be a pretty sort of Magistrate *if I can’t do justice to myself.*”

After these little digressions let us now turn to the French dominion in Newfoundland. I have spoken before of the number of French vessels that fished on our shores as far back as 1504; it has even been conjectured that they discovered the Island before Cabot. Spaniards, French, Portuguese, and English, though very jealous of each other, and occasionally fighting; seem on the whole to have fished together in Newfoundland in a tolerably amicable manner for at least 150 years. Our Sovereignty in the country was admitted, but very little acted on. In 1634 Charles I (according to the Abbè Reynal) allowed the French to fish in Newfoundland on payment of five per cent on the fish caught. This was paid, if at all, only for a very short time. Charles was so troubled with affairs at home that he never

bothered himself about the Colony. Under the Commonwealth things were not much better, still the French exercised no sovereign rights in the Colony; they had Trepassay as their principal Port for making their fish; but gradually they extended their fishing operations all along our Southern coasts. Immediately on the accession of Charles II, knowing that he would not oppose them, Louis XIV sent out 150 men, guns, and all munitions of war, for the erection of a Fort at Placentia; he also built houses there to accommodate fifty fishermen and their families; and he so far presumed on Charles's weakness and corruption as to send out a Governor. Louis was not satisfied with the tacit permission of Charles to exercise sovereign rights in this Colony. In 1675 he made a secret treaty with Charles, and through his able Minister, Colbert, he forced the English King to acquiesce in his claim to a part of the Colony, and to give up the five per cent Royalty. Thus, through the treachery of this wretched Stuart King, France, without firing a shot, obtained all the Island, with the exception of that portion of the East coast, from Cape Race to Cape John, occupied by the English. When it is considered that from 1623 to 1713 the French held undisputed possession of such a large portion of the Colony, it is not to be wondered at that all the Southern and Western portion of the Island from Cape Race round to Cape John have French names. The first French Governor sent out to Placentia was an adventurer, called *Gargot*; he had no salary, but he was not left without remuneration. He set up a Royal Store, and he obliged all the fishermen who frequented Placentia to take all their provisions and merchandize from his stores. This was too much of a monopoly even for Frenchmen to bear. They appealed to the King against *Gargot*, and Louis had to recall him; and the next Governor was M. de la Poype. Those erring Captains, the English Buccaneers, did not care for Charles's arrangement with Louis; five times during De LaPoype's rule they plundered Placentia, and stripped the inhabitants of all their movables. Old *Garneau* says the French Newfoundlanders were a free and hardy race, and they chafed under the domination of La Poype; nevertheless, he held his government, though with difficulty, until 1685, when he was recalled, and De Brouillon appointed; he was a naval officer, a harsh, brutal sort of man, but he had one good quality—he could fight. French Newfoundland was then under the control of the viceroy in

Canada, De Frontenac, the most remarkable man that ever represented the crown of France in the New World. On the accession of William and Mary in 1689 war soon broke out with France. In 1692 Commodore Williams attacked Placentia with three 60-gun ships, and two smaller vessels. The only defence of the place was Fort St. Louis, with 50 men, situated on a rock on the Eastern side of the narrow entrance, and a battery hastily constructed by De Brouillon. Yet after six hours' bombardment, Williams had to retire. Captain Holman, master of an English privateer, in 1694, did an equally gallant act in fighting two large French ships of 40 and 50 guns, at Ferryland, and driving them off, with a loss of 80 or 90 men.

In 1696 there arrived at Placentia, Pierre Le Moyne D'Iberville, born in Montreal of a distinguished French family, the most remarkable sailor and soldier New France or Canada has ever produced; he planned with De Brouillon an attack on St. John's. They made a combined assault on the town and then shared the spoil. The French and English accounts of this attack are very contradictory. I believe the English account is the more correct of the two. De Brouillon attacked by sea, and Iberville by land, with about 150 French soldiers, Indians, and Canadians, (so the French say,) whilst the English account says 400 men.

The first intelligence was brought from Petty Harbour of the French landing there. An English force of 84 men was sent forward to attack them. They met D'Iberville a few miles from St. John's, probably where the guns are on the old Petty Harbor path, and where according to the French account there was an English Battery. In the conflict which ensued the English lost 34 men; the rest retreated into Fort William, closely pursued by the French. The French account says they entered the Fort with the English, whilst the English account says they held out for three days, and from a deposition made by Phillips, Roberts, and others, now in the Record office in London. The French took one William Drew, an inhabitant, a prisoner, cut all around his scalp, and then by strength of hand stripped his skin from his forehead to his crown and then sent him into the Fort, assuring the inhabitants they would all be served the same way if they did not surrender. The French say that there was not a single British soldier in the Island, and it must therefore be admitted that the settlers, who were rude fishermen without a commander, must have made a respectable fight; however,

the town was taken by the overpowering force of De Brouillon's fleet and D'Iberville's soldiers. The fortifications were then demolished and the town burnt. De Brouillon returned to Placentia, and D'Iberville with 125 soldiers and Canadians, besides a few Abenakis from Nova Scotia, commenced his attack upon the other British settlements. It was mid-winter when he began his march. For two months he led his hardy band, each provided with a musket, a battle axe, a dagger, knife and a pair of snow shoes, through frost and snow, from settlement to settlement, attacking each in turn and carrying havoc everywhere; nothing could exceed the hardships of the way or the vigor with which they were met and conquered. The Chaplain Baudoin gives an example of it in his diary :

"January 18th—The roads are so bad that we can find only 12 men strong enough to break the path ; our snow-shoes break on the crust and against the rocks and fallen trees hidden under the snow, which catch and trip us ; but for all that we cannot help laughing to see now one and now another fall headlong. The Sieur d'Martigny fell into a river, and left his sword and his gun there to save his life."

A panic seized the settlers, many of whom were without arms, as well as without leaders. They imagined the Canadians to be savages, who scalped and butchered like the Iroquois; their resistance was feeble and incoherent, and D'Iberville carried all before him. Every settlement was pillaged and burnt, and, according to the incredible report of the French writers, 200 were killed and 700 captured, though they admit most of the prisoners escaped. Carbonear and Bonavista, not accessible in winter, escaped. War continued between France and England from this time up to 1713—(Treaty of Utrecht.) There was a short respite during the Treaty of Ryswick; the English and French settlements were alternately destroyed; but whilst the English won glorious victories under Marlborough at Blenheim, Oudenarde, &c., the English in British America were most unfortunate in their Commanders, especially Admiral Graydon and Admiral Hovenden Walker. The latter, with fifteen ships, 900 guns and 4000 men, decided that it was not practicable to make an attempt on Placentia. Walker says, when he arrived home, loud and invidious clamours were made against him on account of his late expedition to Canada, and frivolous pamphleteers went so

far as to say "that the taking of Placentia on his way to Britain had been as easy for the Admiral as a citizen riding home in his chaise to Highgate calling at a cake-house to regale himself with cider and cheese-cake." Placentia was made a very strong place by the French; two forts were built on each side of the Gut. In 1713, at the peace of Utrecht, the French had to evacuate the town and fortress of Placentia. Ever since the French had fortified it, it had resisted all regular attacks, and was considered, next to Quebec, the strongest fortress in America. The officers of the French garrison at Placentia, in their letters, rejoice at their removal to Cape Breton, extol the fertility of their new settlement, and decry Newfoundland. The only thing they complained of was, that there was not beach-room enough at Louisbourg for the officer's boats to make their fish. Both the English and French soldiers seem to have been employed by their officers catching and curing fish, as I find a complaint made by the West Country Merchants against Major Lloyd, in St. John's, about using his soldiers for this purpose.

In the course of the summer of 1713 about 180 persons, chiefly French fishermen and their families, arrived in Louisbourg from Placentia, and a few from St. Pierre; many of the French wished to remain in Newfoundland, but De Costabella forced all to go but "idlers and vagabonds."

The French writers of this period felt keenly the loss of Placentia; they had been proud of its gallant defence, and the surrender was a great blow to their national pride.

The French made Louisbourg into another Placentia. It was captured in a very gallant manner in 1745 by New England fishermen, under Pepperell, and a few English ships under Warren.

In 1748 the Treaty of Aix la Chapelle gave Louisbourg back to France in return for what the colonists called "a petty factory in the East Indies (Madras) belonging to a private company, whose existence had been deemed prejudicial to the commonwealth." £235,000 was paid to the colonists to reimburse them for their war expenses.

In 1755 commenced the glorious seven years' war. Pitt was at the helm—Frontenac and D'Ibberville had passed away. We had, instead of Hovenden Walker and Williams, Wolfe and Howe. Louisbourg, Quebec, and all New France were taken by the English, and the French left only with

St. Pierre and Miquelon. By strange irony of fate both of these two fortresses, (Placentia and Louisbourg), for whose possession two nations fought so bitterly, are now mere shapeless ruins.

I have no intention of wearying you with a lengthened disquisition on this interminable French Shore question. The inexorable logic of events has virtually driven the French from our Western shore; increasing settlements will further drive them from the North-west; the exercise of their fishing rights and our undoubted territorial rights will in course of time be found incompatible. I will only add this contribution to the many documents on this subject, a short extract from a French pamphlet published in 1762, when the terms of the Treaty of Paris were known:

“By the second article of the Preliminaries, France cedes to Great Britain, besides Cape Breton, all the other Islands in the Gulf and River of St. Lawrence without restriction; and by the third article we are excluded from fishing within three leagues of any of their coasts. The consequences of these cessions are obvious. We have nothing left us but a *precarious right*, subject to cavil and insult to the “*morue verte*,” (literally, green fish,) a commodity not marketable in Portugal, Spain or Italy, but only fit for our own home consumption. Ever since the happy Treaty of Utrecht France has enjoyed great advantages in the dry codfishery. At the breaking out of this war we had in the Bay of Fundy, in Acadie, in Cape Breton, in St. John's, (P. E. Island) Great Gaspé, and other places in the Gulf, above 16,000 fishermen, who carried on most successfully in shoal water the *pêche sédentaire*—(shore fishery.) Now all this is in the hands of the British; all our settlements are unpeopled. From the single Island of St. John's (P. E. I.) Admiral Boscawen removed 5000 inhabitants. “What, then, is left to France? Nothing but the North coast from Cape Riche to Cape Bonavista, with liberty to land and erect stages for a short season, so that we must carry and re-carry both our fish and fishermen; whilst the British, settled on the spot, and carrying on the *pêche sédentaire*, will forestall us and undersell us in every market in the Mediterranean. Miquelon and St. Peters, two barren rocks indeed, are to be ours yet; even for them we have pledged the Royal word, engaging not to erect in them any fortifications, so that even they, with their guard of fifty men for the police, will always lie at the mercy of the British.”

The poor Newfoundland fishermen, who had suffered so much from the French for nearly fifty years after the Treaty of Utrecht, were left unmolested; with the exception of the taking of St. John's in 1762, and its retaking by Colonel Amherst, and the occasional visit of a French privateer, there was uninterrupted tranquility. The colony accordingly progressed rapidly; from 3,224 in 1698, the population rose to 13,112 in 1763. The fisheries increased from 215,922 to 386,274 qtls. Fish caught by Planters alone increased from 101,152 to 235,944 qtls. There was also a valuable whale fishery carried on in the Gulf; but there was little, if any, seal fishery, which appears to have been comparatively a modern enterprise.

I never see these splendid Dundee sealing steamers without thanking Heaven—like Nelson when he saw the Spanish fleet. Dundee can't build men, at any rate who can *copy*. Apropos of copying, (jumping from pan to pan of ice), let me tell a story of what the Newfoundlanders can do in that line:—There was a Canadian aboard of one of our sealers who was very smart at going on the ice after seals; there were some boys aboard on half their hand; and there was great rivalry between the Canadian and the boys, who should get seals first. One day the master called out there were some seals on the starboard bow; over the side went the Canadian like lightning, followed by the boys; there was a channel just caught over, which the Canadian did not see, and down he went; as he rose the boys, seven in number, came to the edge, and over that devoted Canadian's head and shoulders did the seven boys successfully copy. Well might a Dundee Captain exclaim "barbarous!" when he heard the story. There is another story about a whale that made three half hitches around his tail with a schooner's cable; but as the copyright belongs to an old and most respected friend I won't pirate it, but pass on to the end of my subject.

THE PLACENTIA RECORDS.

As I have stated before, for nearly fifty years after the Treaty of Utrecht the poor English Planters in Newfoundland enjoyed the blessings of peace; but the fight between the West Country adventurers and the Planters was still kept up. The Devonshire men wanted, a few years previously, to drive away all settlers out of the Country; and an Order in Council was made in 1670 that all plantations in Newfoundland should be discouraged, that the Commander of the Convoy should have a Commission to declare to all

Planters to come away voluntarily, or else the Western Charter should be put in execution, forbidding any one to inhabit within six miles of the shore from Cape Race to Cape Bonavista. Fortunately the Commander of the Convoy, Sir John Berry, was a sensible and humane man; he refused to put the order in operation, and his Report to the Committee of Council for trade was so favorable to the Planters, and so adverse to the Western Adventurers, that new rules were made, more favourable to the Planters. The Devonshire men abused Sir John Berry in every mood and tense of oburgation, and then commenced tearing down Planters' houses; the fight between the contending parties became hot and heavy, and when a fight was going on an Irishman could not long keep out of it, so in 1676 we find a whole-souled Irishman, John Downing, took up the Planters' side, fought it out before the Council, and carried the day. The West Conntrymen for the time were worsted, but undismayed they returned to the charge with characteristic obstinacy. They admitted that Planters in moderate numbers might be convenient for the preparation and preservation of boats, stages, and other things necessary for the fishery, but they argued with profound sagacity that they should never be allowed, on any account whatever to *exceed one thousand*. But notwithstanding Sir John Northcote, (Sir Stafford's ancestor), Sir William Courtney and Sir Thomas Carew, and many other worthy Devonshire Baronets and Squires, the benighted Newfoundlanders persisted in clinging to the Colony, and the little Terra Novian children grew and multiplied in spite of orders in Council and West Country protests. One idea appears to have haunted the mercantile mind of those days, and that was how to get rid of their servants' claims for the balance of their wages. According to their lights they did their level best: they gave them goods at long prices in the spring, they kept liquor going for them all summer, and then at settling time they finished them off with debts, grog scores, and charges for neglect. Nothing marks our progress so much as the fact that a fisherman must now receive his balance in cash, and may drink all the season through at his employer's expense, without incurring any legal liability to pay for his liquor.

After the English took possession of Placentia, in 1713, the first difficulty that arose was about the disposal of the French houses and lands. Queen Anne had agreed, in con-

sideration of the French King releasing a number of Protestant slaves from the galleys, to permit the French inhabitants of Placentia who would not become her subjects to sell their houses and lands. Queen Anne confirmed the title of all who bought from the French; and a large quantity of land and rooms now in Placentia are held under these titles. Many French continued there up to 1716, and even a few years later, and gave much trouble by encouraging Biscayans to come there. In 1728 Lord Vere Beauclerc was appointed Commodore on the station. He took great interest in Newfoundland, and was to have been appointed Governor; but as this would necessitate vacating his seat in Parliament, Captain Osborne was appointed. Placentia, which was then under the Government of Nova Scotia, was separated from that Colony, and all put under Osborne as Governor of Newfoundland, who had power to appoint Justices of the Peace. The first idea was to send some one with Lord Vere who was skilled in the Law; but instead of a lawyer they sent out a naval officer, Captain Osborn, Commander of H. M. S. *Squirrel*, and eleven Law Books. Lord Vere came with him in the *Oxford*, and besides her guns she carried weighty artillery in the form of eleven sets of *Shaw's Practical Justices of the Peace*, each impressed on the covers in gold letters with one of these titles:—Placentia, St. John's, Carbonear, Bay of Bulls, St. Mary's, Trepassey, Ferryland, Bay de Verd, Trinity Bay, Bonavista, Old Parlekin in Newfoundland. These books (I wonder what has become of them?) mark the end of the second period of Newfoundland History and the commencement of real government in Newfoundland. Justices of the Peace were appointed in the several localities named. These distinguished judicial functionaries had two eminent qualities—they were profoundly ignorant of law, and they had an immense idea of their own importance. Clothed with all the dignity of office, rejoicing in the confidence of their Sovereign, and holding their patent of authority direct from the fountain of honor, they did a deal of rough justice in a promiscuous sort of way. Their records, though very dull and prosy—as such documents generally are—are valuable, historical documents. It is not praising them too highly to say that they were a great improvement on the Fishing Admirals, who kept no records for the good and all-sufficient reason—they could *neither read nor write*. What a history it would have been if all their queer doings had been put on paper. The Admirals were not to be done away

with all at once ; the Justices were to assist the Commodore, and the Admirals were to assist the Justices, and they sat all together in Court. And now, having brought these desultory episodes down to this point, I shall confine myself for the conclusion of this Lecture to the proceedings of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the town and fortress of Placentia, taken from their records. Amongst the early names in these records, distinguished amongst many celebrated men, is that of Thomas Graves, Captain H. M. S. *Antelope*. One cannot peruse these musty old papers without forming fancy pictures respecting the characters of those whose acts are recorded there. I must confess to a strange liking for this fine naval officer. The cool methodical way in which he issues his orders to defend the Colony, (then attacked by the French,) his care for the forts and military stores, the dignity with which he presides in the Placentia Court, then held in a low dingy room in Thomas Kennedy's house, his admirable and lucid judgments, his freedom from the bigotry of the age, mark the high qualities of one who, in an age of naval heroes, was amongst the most distinguished, and whose gallantry in Lord Howe's action of June 1st, 1794, mainly contributed to that gallant victory. The Government of Newfoundland seems to have been given to distinguished officers, amongst whom are the honored names of Byng, Hardy, and lastly the gallant Rodney, all of whom governed the Colony, and in their capacity as Commodore, sat on the Placentia Bench.

The Justices and the Governor exercised the most extraordinary powers ; one of their efforts in this way deserves recording ; it is dated 1760, and the Governor's name was James Webb. It goes on to say—"Whereas a number of Irish adventurers are in the habit of coming to this country not in the regular way of the fishing business, and not contributing to the support of the Colony ; and whereas it is necessary to build Court Houses, Jails, and Stocks, be it therefore ordered, that every Irish boat-keeper shall pay twenty shillings a year, and every common Irishman five shillings.

In 1769 the Hon. Levison Gower, being Surrogate, and sitting in Court in Placentia, laid down the following Rules of Law :—

That a constable had a right to beat anyone, in carrying out the law.

That he had an action against everyone who interfered

with him in the discharge of his duty. But no action whatever could be taken against him.

Captain Molineaux Shuldham is answerable for the following *dicta* :

Selling liquor without a license—punishment, banishment from the Country.

“All idle and useless men and women to be punished according to law, and then sent out of the Country.”

A very curious case between parties residing at the Ram Islands, Placentia Bay, came before the Court, which illustrates the social character of the age. John Gumby, Plaintiff, sued John Heffernan, Defendant, for carrying away his wife. Defendant pleaded that he bought the wife from her Uncle for £20 stg. Judgment, damages £20 stg. It appears that these learned Justices were not satisfied with taxation; they carried their authority still further and made the merchants write out their prices, which were submitted to them, whereupon an agreement was made that these should be the prices for the season. In the records is the copy of an agreement made between Simon Honeyburn, on behalf of William Turner, and the underwritten Planters as to prices. Amongst the articles enumerated are the following:—

“Bread and flour at 20s, except when purchased here to be 22s. per cwt.; Pork £3 10s. per barrel; Spanish Salt 16s. per hhd.; Soap and Candles 8d. per lb.; Rum 4s. 6d. per gallon; Boots 25s. per pair; Leather 3s. per lb.; Powder 2s. per lb.; Tobacco 9d. per lb.; Molasses 4s. per gallon.

“Honeyburn to allow to each and every the sundry persons within named 15 per cent on all slops supplied their men, and after the discharge of their respective debts to receive one third part Bill for the remainder if required. This agreement to stand as last year, only brandy and rum to be 4s. per gallon. Dated Little Placentia, 8th October, 1761.” After settling these prices the Court ordered that no fisherman was to deliver his fish until he got his winter supplies. It is not to be wondered at that these remarkable judgments of the Justices were gall and wormwood to the West Country Merchants. Accordingly we find them making great complaints to the authorities at home about the officers of the garrison at Placentia carrying on the fishery and farming: about the Justices being bribed by the Planters; that the Naval Officers paid too much attention to the Colonial girls; and, consequently, they were too partial to their

relations ; and that they strongly suspected they were bribed also. As usual the West Country adventurers prevailed at home, for in 1768 I find Sir Hugh Palliser making this order :

“Several representations having been made to me by sundry adventurers against Her Majesty’s Justices at Placentia, of many partial and unwarrantable proceedings, to the great discouragement and obstruction of a public and free fishery, and seeing there is cause for such complaints,” Messrs. Edgecumbe and Haddock were accordingly struck off the Commission of the Peace, and Richard Braithwaite, William Bennett, and Jervis Grossard reigned in their stead. The first case that the new Justices tried was *Joseph McNamara vs. Joseph Conway*. The charge was for heaving a hatchet, which violently assaulted and beat the Plaintiff, and laid him up for the summer. The Defendant was not present : he was not even summoned ; but the Court unanimously decided—First, to take all his wages and to give the amount to McNamara ; secondly, they ordered him to be corporally punished ; and lastly, they ordered him to be *banished to Ireland* : The Justices had levied a tax prior to 1774 on all room keepers (first it was on boats, but this was declared illegal) and then they put it on persons. Out of this tax in 1774 Lieut.-Colonel Gorham, Surrogate at Placentia, ordered a Court House to be built, and a year or two after that it was opened in great state, the Surrogate presiding in full uniform, the two Justices, the Senior on the right, sometimes styled the Chief Justice, and the Junior on the left ; on the Bench also were the Admiral, the Vice-Admiral and the Rear-Admiral.—The notable inhabitants according to rank and religion, and the Constables also, in the same order. I daresay many of you have seen this noble building the Placentia Court House ; at the present time it would not make a decent cow shed. In its day it was an object of almost superstitious reverence. However, by some means, probably through the influence of Mr. James Walsh, whose daughters were married one to Mr. Saunders, an officer of the garrison, and another to Mr. Sweetman, the Justices it appears had allowed a Roman Catholic Priest to say mass there. Soon, however, came an order which put an end to this proceeding—

“Whereas it appears on record that toleration has been granted to a Catholic Priest to say mass in the Public Court House, and to use the Bench, which, being improper, is strictly ordered to be discontinued.”

From henceforth this sacred altar dedicated to Justice was to be strictly reserved for the Justices' justice, and the reading of the Church of England service; and I feel quite sure, with the sound views that the Justices held of its sanctity, they would not allow the sacred seat to be occupied by a Presbyterian Clergyman, and least of all by a frivolous lecturer.

One case that the Placentia Justices tried—*Sharpe vs. Whittle*—deserves mention. Sharpe's complaint sets out that Whittle's son and his servant broke open his store and took half a barrel pork. Sharpe examined his own man and brought him before Mr. Spurrier's agent. Whittle's family abused Sharpe in a most scurrilous manner, and erected a gallows whereon to hang him; besides, Whittle said he would, in open Court, prove Sharpe to be a robber of the dead.

EVIDENCE FOR SHARPE.

William Pelly proved that Joel Smith, Whittle's servant, broke open the door of Sharpe's store and gave part of the pork to a dog.

Joseph Sharpe swore that he did not see the gallows, but he was afraid of his life even when he delivered the summons.

John Smith swore that he heard Mrs. Whittle say she would make garters out of Sharpe's skin; Mrs. Whittle also said Sharpe was an old rogue.

Joseph Harding said, Whittle asked him how the robber of the dead was.

Whittle on his defence said that his son and his servant had no occasion to take the pork.

Sharpe then swore the peace against Whittle, Mrs. Whittle and their eldest son.

Phil Dwyer and Jeffrey Flinn went security in £20 stg. for the Whittles. James Whittle was then ordered to ask Sharpe's pardon, or to pay a fine of £5. Whittle, in an emphatic manner, said he would see him *somewhere* first. Samuel Whittle was ordered to receive twelve lashes, Joel Smith eighteen lashes. Samuel Whittle, on account of his youth, was released; but Joel Smith then received his eighteen lashes; after which edifying spectacle the Court notified the Protestant inhabitants that Divine Service would be held to-morrow, Sunday, at 12 o'clock, in the Court House.

On the 20th July, 1786, a great event happened in Pla-

centia. On that day arrived His Royal Highness Prince William Henry, (afterwards William IV). He came with a commission as Surrogate to preside in the Placentia Court. To show their devotion to the house of Hanover there was a great accession of Protestant feeling, and they displayed their respect for His Highness by promulgating an order on that day—

“That no more Catholics should be buried in the graveyard.”

One of His Royal Highness's judicial decisions was given on the next Sunday, and is thus noted in the Record—

A riot happening on shore at 4 o'clock, and the Magistrate attending to suppress it, was insulted. The Prince came on shore with a guard of marines, arrested the ringleader, called a Court, and sentenced the ringleader to receive 100 lashes—he was only able to receive 80. *Next day inquired into the facts of the case; (and report has it that they had whipped the wrong man.)* There are many stories floating about the Colony respecting His Sacred Majesty, William IV, during his stay in Newfoundland. One story goes, that Mr. Warren, afterwards a partner in the firm of Stuart & Rennie, (the present Surveyor General's father), was going along in the evening to his house, and as the flakes covered the streets in those days, he carried a lantern. Suddenly a person took the lantern from him; he recognized the Prince as the person who took his lantern, and His Royal Highness walked before him until they arrived opposite to where his ship lay at anchor. The Prince then wished him good night and returned him the lantern. Another story is about a Lieutenant's wife, who got her husband's Company for him by presenting His Majesty with a Newfoundland wild goose. The last story, however, is the best: An old gentleman who knew the Prince well when he was here, called on him at Kensington Palace. His Majesty was delighted to see him, and gave him a glass of calabogus—spruce beer and rum; they had a pleasant chat over their glass and a pipe. The Newfoundland gentleman thought it would be the right thing to ask after the Queen's health. His Majesty said Queen Adelaide was quite well, and would have had much pleasure in seeing him, but unfortunately it was *washing day*. I tell the story as 'tis told to me, and if you don't credit it I can only say, in the words of an immortal official of the Assembly, “If you don't believe me, ask Richard.”

My note book is crowded with curious unpublished facts respecting our Colony, and with genuine Newfoundland stories, but I will forbear inflicting any more episodes on my readers. It is not creditable to us, as a Colony, that we have no permanent collection of works bearing on our History ; and that our most interesting Historical monuments and records have neither been collected nor classified. Bye and bye, however, I trust, when our new Athenæum building is finished, we may be enabled to establish an Historical Society like the one in Nova Scotia ; and if this desultory lecture may contribute in any way to further that desirable result, my object in preparing it will be fully accomplished.